Reforms infertilizer subsidy

1085. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers, headed by the Chairman of the Planning Commission, has finalized a plan of Reforms, which would do away with the massive subsidy of over Rs. 140 billion to the fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Group and by when the detailed policy on urea/fertilizers would be made public;

(c) whether it would be done in a phased manner, spread over five years, commencing in 2003, and would further prevent the agricultural sector from global competition; and

(d) if so, how Government hope to protect the farmers from China, European Union and USA, with these reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) A Group of Ministers (GOM) was constituted to examine and give its report on recommendations of Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC). Government is in process of formulating new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of GOM.

Notices by NPPA Against Overcharging

1086. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what system is being followed by NPPA for monitoring the prices of de-controlled drugs;

(b) whether it is a fact that notices are being sent to companies for overcharging on non-scheduled drugs;

(c) if so, the names of the companies and the medicines and the prices being charged and the criteria for sending notices;